Extension Work for Use of Improved varieties of Seeds

1549. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry will give more emphasis for extension work to allow farmer to use improved varieties of seeds developed by IARI and other research institutes ;

(b) whether it is a fact that State Governments have been complaining of shortage of funds for extension work ; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet this financial requirements in this regard . ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific complaints for shortage of funds for extension work have been received from States. However, we are aware that some States are having problems of release of funds against budgetary provisions. Also, because of economy measures adopted by the States, certain financial constraints have arisen with regard to full utilization of extension training capacity.

(c) The steps taken include :

(i) release of advance Central assistance to facilitate budgetary support in case of externally aided extension projects.

(ii) supplementing States' extension efforts by taking up Central/Centrally sponsored projects, providing training/information support to State extension functionaries, etc.

(iii) Follow-up with State Governments at various levels.

Direct Marketing by Farmers

1550. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers had been advised to enter into marketing directly;

(b) whether agriculture Ministry is ready to finance such ventures ;

(c) whether the mode of operation of such marketing ventures has been formulated ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Government of India have established Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) under the Society's Registration Act, 1860, with a view to establish strong marketinglink between producers and consumers. Farmers and Farmers association can take part in the activities of the SFAC.

(b) to (d) The mode of operation and the details of financing such ventures have not been finalised so far.

Payments under crop Insurance Scheme in Gujarat

1551. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how much amount was paid under the Crop Insurance Scheme in Gujarat ;

(b) how much amount is still to be paid under the Scheme in Gujarat ;

(c) what action has been taken to settle the claims; and

(d) when will the remaining amount to be paid to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Claims amounting to Rs. 535.41 crores were paid under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) in Gujarat from Kharif 1985 to Rabi 1992-93.

(b) to (d) Claims amounting to Rs. 8938 in respect of Rabi 1992-93 are pending for want of required details from the banks. The banks have been advised by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) to furnish the details, on receipt of which payment would be made.